

From: Mr O
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 10:22pm
Subject: Microsoft's exploits

To the honorable judge Kollar-Kotelly,

I am writing you as many others are in regards to the concern of Microsoft's business practices. Microsoft is a company that hinders the freedom of every computer user out there. As you know they represent a majority of the desktop market in the technology industry. It is only here in the US that the majority of desktop computers actually have a valid license though. Many other countries resort to piracy because of Microsoft's pricing. If you've read technology headlines of any lately you'll notice many countries are making a switch to other operating systems such as Linux.

Linux as you may have heard is generally free. Most major distributors of the linux operating system freely give away their product via download or offer boxed sets with support options. By offering a stable reliable operating system for a cost of next to nothing but time many government agencies around the world including the USA have been embracing this operating system as a means of cutting costs and saving millions upon millions of dollars in licensing costs for years to come. Further evaluation of Microsoft's practices will show they are making every attempt possible to ensure customers are caught in an agreement which guarantees Micro\$oft an income while guaranteeing the consumer nothing at all.

Already in place in Microsoft's latest operating system XP and their OfficeXP product are agreements and practices more of an annoyance than a protection. They are only trying to protect themselves in these manners and are causing more of a headache for the consumer.

This letter is of more importance to show you the exploits of Microsoft and to make you aware there are other operating systems and standards available. Microsoft has done it's best to exploit Sun and the Java standards, Apple and it's entire product line, as well as making every effort to conquer AOL in the ISP front by purchasing/forcing many smaller ISP's out of business and even handling ISP account related to QWest's DSL service. Many customers are given little to no choice when such changes are made.

To end, I even sympathize with the poor soul who distributed the notice I received about the Microsoft gameplay as I noticed it was a ".doc" type file which is proprietary to Microsoft's Office product. Fortunately I use an Open Source (free) word processing program which allows me to read such a file and even save to such an evil format should I desire.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Mike Owen

notanatheist@yahoo.com

P.S. As a final wish... The latest settlement requiring Microsoft to pay/donate millions of dollars in equipment to schools should be payed out in ONLY hardware. Surely there are enough companies willing to DONATE an operating system for the hardware. America is freedom is it not? Thank you. God bless.

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CC: nolandpeebles@attbi.com@inetgw